



5 September 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Hurricane Evacuation Study - Mass Management Tool

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to conduct hurricane/typhoon preparedness studies under the Flood Plain Management Services Program, established under Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended. These studies, collectively referred to Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) through fiscal year 2001, were comprised of a series of technical data reports intended to provide local emergency managers state-of-the-art information to assist in hurricane/typhoon preparedness and decision making.

b. New technical guidelines for conducting hurricane/typhoon evacuation studies for island communities have been developed as a result of recommendations made by a January 2002 HES Islands Task Force Report.

c. In fiscal year 2002, the new study process used existing data from multiple sources (behavioral surveys, evacuation statistics, sheltering information, etc.) to produce an interactive computer spreadsheet program which will allow island emergency managers to manipulate various data sets to produce scenarios for mass management of their island populations.

d. In fiscal year 2002, the CNMI, Emergency Management Office was provided with a Mass Management Tool (MMT) product for island of Saipan, which was operational for the 2002 typhoon season. In fiscal year 2003, an MMT product will be completed for the islands of Rota and Tinian. Future plans are to refine the MMT as mapping, hazards, cultural/ behavioral and GIS databases become available.

3. Congressional Interest. There is interest expressed by Representative Tenorio on products that will assist in CNMI's emergency planning and preparedness.